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MANIFESTO:

Containing the

REASONS

Which have Induced the

Lords States General of the
United Netherlands,

TO DECLARE

WAR

• AGAINST THE

Kings of France and Spain,

MAY 8. 1702.

L O N D O N:

Printed for A. Baldwin, near the Oxford-Arms in
Warwick-lane. 1702.

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MANIFESTO

CONTAINING

The Reasons which have induced the
Lords States General of the *United
Netherlands*, to Declare War against
the Kings of *France* and *Spain*.

THE States General of the United Netherlands,
to all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting.
Know ye, That the King of *France* having for
a long time since cast his Eyes upon these Pro-
vinces, to seize upon the same, if possible, or entirely to
destroy and ruin them, has in order to compass his Design,
twice attack'd this Republick, *viz.* in the Years 1672,
and 1688. by a most unjust and violent War, tho we had
done our utmost to avoid the same, and preserve the con-
tinuation of Peace and Tranquility. That nothing is
more evidently known, than that if that King had suc-
ceeded

ceeded in his Design, and possessed himself of these Provinces, he would have thereby made his way to the Universal Monarchy. And if he had but only weakened them, and forced them to sit still, and separate themselves from their Allies, 'tis no less notorious, that he might have attained his Aim, by subduing other Princes and Powers; whereby this Republick had been in a manifest danger of being reduc'd as well as other States, and losing her *Liberty* and *Religion*; which are the two precious Advantages for which the Subjects of this State have formerly suffer'd so many cruel Persecutions; and which they could never fully and entirely enjoy, till they had frankly and heartily sacrificed their Fortunes and Blood, with every thing else that was dear to them, and maintain'd a War of Eighty Years standing, against the *then* powerful Kings of *Spain*.

That notwithstanding it has pleased God to punish these Provinces by the Two last Wars, because of their Sins; yet He has not permitted that the *French* King should put in execution his Ambitious Designs; but on the contrary, has so favoured the Arms of the Republick and their Allies, that they obtain'd in the Years 1678, and 1697, a General Peace; whereby *France* was obliged to Restore Large Provinces, Lordships, and important Places to the Emperor, the Empire, and the King of *Spain*, which she had possessed partly by a violent Force, and partly by Craft and Artifices, under the specious Name of *Reunion*, and other Pretences, against the Treaty of *Nimeguen*.

That the Treaty of Peace of *Reswick*, and that of Commerce being so solemnly concluded in the Year 1697. we had all the reason in the World to flatter our selves that

that the same would be *bona fide* executed in all its Points: but we have found on the contrary by experience, that they did not design on the part of *France* to observe them, but only to induce us and our Allies to lay down our Arms, disband our Forces, and separate us one from the other, in order to weaken us; and in particular to enervate and ruin our Subjects in ruining their Commerce, that they might the more easily obtain the aim here above-mentioned. This is so notorious, that the Treaties aforesaid of Peace and Commerce were hardly ratify'd, that they began manifestly to encroach upon the Trade of these Provinces, which is the Sinew of this State, by their openly refusing to grant us the *Tariff* promised unto us by the Treaty aforesaid, putting thereby the Subjects and Merchants of this Republick to numberless Troubles upon that account; which obliged us after a long, tedious, and expensive Negotiation, to accept a *Tariff* tho' disadvantageous to us, contrary to the Tenor of the said Treaty, in order to prevent a greater Mischief.

That notwithstanding it was Stipulated by the 5th Article of the said Treaty of Commerce, that such of our Subjects who should Settle in *France* for carrying on their Trades, should be free and exempted from the Duties and Tax laid upon Foreigners; yet excessive Duties have been laid upon our Subjects, and we have been forced to see and bear the same.

That in the mean while, the King of *France* omitted nothing to persuade us by all imaginable Protestations, that he had no other Design than the preservation of the Peace, and the removing of all Obstacles that may interrupt the same: And whereas the weak Constitution of
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the King of *Spain* could not promise a long Life, and that his Death was like to cause great Wars and Differences ; this occasioned a Treaty, whereby on one Side, it was provided, That the *French* King should not have that Exorbitant Power, which otherwise he would have had by the Accession or Union of the *Spanish* Monarchy to his Crown ; and by these means prevented the Ill Consequence all *Europe* was afraid of ; and on the other hand, Satisfaction was given to others who Claimed the said Succession in order to preserve the General Peace.

That upon this Foundation the King of *France* having concluded on the Third and Twenty fifth day of *March*, 1700, a Solemn Treaty with the King of *England* and this *State*, we were in hopes to preserve thereby the General Peace ; but that Treaty was no sooner Concluded and Ratified, but it most evidently Appear'd, That it was not the Intention of the *French* King to stand by it and Observe it ; but on the contrary, that they used all manner of Artifices in the Court of *Spain*, not only to render the Emperor odious to the *Spaniards*, but also to oblige the King to dispose of his succession, by a Testament in Favour of *France*.

That the King of *Spain* having sometime after departed this Life, they produced a Testament, whereby the Duke of *Anjou*, Grandson to the King of *France*, was declared Heir of all the Kingdoms and Dominions of the Deceased King.

That the said Will being made publick, the *French* King did immediately give proofs of his secret intentions of making use of all imaginable means to gratify his vast Ambition : And in order thereunto, without any respect

respect or regard to a Treaty so solemnly and newly concluded, and the repeated Protestations he had made, never to depart from it, he accepted the said Will, breaking and violating the Treaty aforesaid; without giving any previous communication of his Intentions to those with whom he had made it: Notifying the same without any disguise to the Republick; and alledging for the principal Motive thereof, that the *Spirit* and *Sense* of the said Treaty, and not the *Letter*, were only to be regarded; and explaining that Spirit and Sense in his own way, as he thought fit; not omitting at the same time to threaten us; and representing the Dangers and Misfortunes which we may expect, if we did not conform our selves to that *Spirit*: Which proceeding is a Breach of Faith as uncommon and unheard of, as ever was; and a dangerous Instance, which tends for the future to undermine and ruin the Faith of all Publick Treaties.

That by virtue of the Testament aforesaid, that King did not content himself to cause the Duke of *Anjou* to be proclaimed King of *Spain*, but he possessed himself in his Name, of all the Kingdoms and Dominions of the *Spanish* Monarchy, without any regard to the Pretensions of the Emperor; which were so fully owned in the Treaty aforesaid, that they were not only laid as the Foundation of the said Treaty, but also so far acknowledged for just and Lawful on all sides, that the greatest part of the *Spanish* Monarchy was yielded to the Arch-Duke of *Austria*.

That the said King being unwilling to stop there, caused his own Troops to take possession of the *Spanish* *Netherlands*,

therlands, notwithstanding our Town were in Garison therein, by the permission and consent of the late King of *Spain* for the defence and security of the said Country ; and with a great deal of difficulty was at last persuaded to let our said Troops return home, after they were very much weaken'd. That by these means the Republick was at once depriv'd of her Rampart and Barrier, for which we had already maintain'd Two Bloody Wars, and which the King of *France* himself had assign'd in the Conditions of the Peace concluded in the Year 1678. and contrary to what was particularly stipulated in the Treaty of Partition, and insisted upon on the part of the Republick ; viz. That the said *Spanish Netherlands* should belong to the Archduke of *Austria*.

That the said King of *France* immediately began to govern Arbitrarily the Kingdoms and Dominions of *Spain*, under the Name of his Grandson, as well in Civil as in Military Affairs ; and has so united those States to his own, as if the same were but one and the same Kingdom and Government: Which can never more evidently appear, than in the case of the *Spanish Netherlands*, the Barrier of this State, where it appears (as indeed they write it from *Spain*) that the said Provinces have been absolutely yielded and made over to the King of *France* ; and that he exercises an Absolute Authority over them, both in Civil and Military Affairs, and likewise in matters of Finances.

That

That the *French* King having carried his exorbitant Power to the degree, which the Christian World had so long apprehended, and laid suitable foundations for obtaining the Universal Monarchy, he did not delay it long, to put those Projects in execution, sending a formidable Army into *Italy*, to make himself entirely Master thereof, having already sent a great number of Troops into the *Spanish Netherlands* to fright us, and oblige us, if possible, to a separate Treaty without our Allies.

That these Artifices, tho never so well concerted, falling short of the desired effect, the *French* King made use of all other imaginable ways to compel us thereunto by force, and to that end seized the City and Cittadel of *Leige* without the consent of the Dean and Chapter, and without the previous consent and knowledge of the Emperor and the Empire, caused the Dean of the said Chapter to be by violence seized and carried away into the *Spanish* Dominions, that he might not oppose his design, and in order to strike a terror into the said Chapter.

That being not satisfied with having thus seized upon *Liege*, and in order to streighten us more and more, he possessed himself, contrary to the Will of the Chapter of *Cologne*, of the most considerable places of that Archbishoprick, and namely, of the Fortresses of *Bonn*, *Keyserwaert*, and *Rhinberguen*, (his design upon the City of *Cologne* having happily miscarried by their good Conduct,) to put himself in a condition to invade this Republick, as he had done in the year 1672. And that nothing might be wanting to make himself sure of it, and in order to block us up on all sides, he caused a considerable number of Troops to be raised at his own charges in the Country of

Wolfembuttel, that they might invade us on that side, sending at the same time all sorts of Ammunition and Artillery to the *Rhine* through Foreign Countries, the better to invade these Provinces.

That the said King, being not satisfied with having freightened us in that manner by Land, proceeded further, and by possessing himself in the name of the King of Spain, of all the Harbours in Spain, Naples, Sicily, and other Islands in the *Mediterranean*, as also the *Spanish Netherlands* and the *Indies*, he made himself entire Master of the Commerce of *Europe*, and obtained the Power to exclude us and other Nations from it. And finally, that we might have no room or place left to us for Trade, he endeavoured to perswade the King of *Portugal* to forbid us his Harbours, and sent at the same time a Squadron into the *West Indies*, on purpose to seize the Silver Fleet, in which our Subjects, and those of other Princes and Potentates, are so considerably concerned.

That, affairs being in that intricate and dangerous condition, we, as the nearest and most exposed to the Fire, having in the first place invoked God Almighty to our assistance, thought it necessary to put ourselves in a posture of defence, and to arm ourselves as well as we could, both by Sea and Land, against that exorbitant Power, and the dangers we were threatned with; and at the same time, to desire of our Neighbours and Allies, the Succours they had promis'd us by Treaties, in case we were molested and disturbed; which they having granted us, with the same readiness as we desired, we put ourselves in that condition, that refusing to hearken to any private Treaty with

with *France*, we had time to Confederates ourselves with his Imperial Majesty, the King of *England*, the King of *Prussia*, and other Princes and Potentates, for the Common defence of our, and their respective Dominions, the preservation of the Liberty of *Europe*, and for recovering the General Peace and Tranquillity.

That every one beginning to open their Eyes, and to think of their natural defence, the Emperor sent a considerable Army into *Italy* to oppose the *French* King.

That his Imperial Majesty having thought fit to dislodge the *French* out of the Electorate of *Cologne*, and used all imaginable ways for it, did, together with the Directors of the Circles concerned therein, desire our assistance, which we (conformable to our Engagements, our own Defence, and the strict Alliance we were entred into) could not refuse; but on the contrary, thought it necessary that our Forces there and elsewhere should act as Auxiliaries, by way of diversion.

That these proceedings of the *French*, have, to our great sorrow, kindled a War in several parts of the World, which is actually begun, and carried on with a great deal of violence.

That, as we had not given the least pretence thereunto, but on the contrary, made out utmost efforts for the preservation of the General Peace, we were very glad to see a Minister that the *French* King had sent into these parts, and neglected nothing to ingage him to make some Proposals for maintaining the General Peace; but seeing we could

not succeed therein, we made ourselves some Demands, which we thought necessary for recovering a General Tranquility and our private Security ; but there has been no manner of answer, nor the least offer made thereupon.

That indeed some outward Protestations of Peace have been made on that side, but as at the same time they continued their Warlike Preparations, to seize the Lands of our Neighbours, and to confederate themselves with several Princes and Potentates, they have clearly manifested that their Protestations would come to nothing, unless we were resolved to treat separately from our Allies, and this they have still more evidently discovered by recalling successively two Ministers.

Finally, that King has upon that foot caused his Resident to declare unto us in a Memorial, that his Armies were in a condition to Act against us, if we came to no resolution about the things contained in that Memorial.

And as there is nothing more evidently known, than that the designs of the present King of *Spain* against the Liberty of our State and Commerce, are the same as those of the King of *France* ; nay, as all the World must be convinced by the whole Directions and Management of Affairs, that the King of *France* and the present King of *Spain* are one and the same in effect ; and that the King of *Spain* can do, nor will do nothing but what the King of *France* pleases, and will have him to do ; even that
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the Kingdoms of *France* and *Spain* are United into one ; it follows from thence, that whatever the King of *France* has done against us and our Allies, in the name of the King of *Spain*, must be taken and understood to be made by the King of *Spain* himself, or at least by both of 'em. That by these means the King of *France*, above what has been already said, has made use of the *Spanish* Troops, in the name of the King of *Spain*, to carry on his designs against us. That in that name he has erected a Fort, within the reach of the Cannon of a Fortress belonging to the States, contrary to the Treaty concluded with the King of *Spain* in the year 1648, and contrary to the Laws of Nations, and those of War.

That the King of *Spain* has not only suffered those proceedings of the King his Grand-Father ; but absolutely approved the same, and the actual seizing of the whole Monarchy of *Spain*, and in particular of the *Spanish* Netherlands, that necessary Barrier for our State.

That all Divine and Humane Laws dictating to us, that being thus streightned, blocked up on all sides, and actually attacked by the Kings of *France* and *Spain*, and threatned by them with so many dangers, we may, and are bound to make use against them, of all the means God and Nature have put into our hands for our defence, protecting our Subjects, and for preserving their Religion and Liberty ; and therefore, to take up Arms against

gainst the said Kings of *France* and *Spain*, who have together Conspired our Ruin and Destruction; and declare War against them, as we do by these presents, trusting that God Almighty will bless the Justice of our Cause, and the means we shall make use of.

Desiring all Kings, Princes, Republicks and States, who love their own Preservation and Liberty, together with that of *Europe*, that they will regard this our Declaration, as an effect of an urgent and pressing necessity, for defending ourselves, and protecting our Subjects, and consequently all *Europe*; and that they will, in conjunction with us, oppose the ill designs of the Kings of *France* and *Spain*, and their exorbitant Power; whereby they intend to make themselves Masters of all Christendom; and to that end to give us aid and assistance.

Lastly, We command and require all our Subjects, and Inhabitants of these Provinces, Commanders, Officers, Souldiers and others, of what quality soever they be, to own and regard the said Kings of *France* and *Spain* as Enemies of this State; to invade their Country, and fall upon their Subjects and Vassals both by Sea and Land; to repulse their violence, and do every thing else they are obliged to do for the defence of our Country, and the Damage of our Enemies.

And that no body may pretend to be ignorant thereof, we require and command the Lords States, Councillors and Deputy States of these respective Provinces, and all o-
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ther Officers and Magistrates of this Country, to cause these presents to be Proclaimed, Published and Posted up, on the 15th day of this instant, in the places where Publications of this nature are usually made; commanding likewise that the same be Published and Affixed in the usual places, of the District of the Generality. Done and Concluded in the Assembly of the Lords States General at the *Hague*, May 8. 1702. Signed *W. de Nassau*, and underneath *F. Fagel*, and Sealed with the Seal of the States General in Red Wax.

F I N I S.
